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13 January 1993
ENGLISH
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Forty-eighth session

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Letter dated 12 January 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of a decision taken recently concerning the Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare.

Spain signed the Protocol on 17 June 1925 and deposited the corresponding instrument of ratification on 22 August 1929 with the French Government, the depositary of the Protocol. On that occasion, the Spanish Government entered the following reservation:

> "Declares as compulsory ipso facto and without special agreement in relation to any other Member or State accepting and executing the same obligation, that is to say, on condition of reciprocity, the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva, June 17, 1925."

Spain has no such weapons and its defence plans make no provision for their use.

Furthermore, in paragraph 8 of its Final Declaration, the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction stressed the importance that it attached to the withdrawal of such reservations.

Spain has also said that it intends to be one of the original signatories to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production,

Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, which was the subject of resolution 47/39 recently adopted by the General Assembly.

I am pleased to inform you that on 23 December 1992, the Spanish Government informed the depositary Government that it had decided to withdraw the reservation entered on 17 June 1925. Such withdrawal took effect on 28 December 1992.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly under the item entitled "Chemical and Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons".

(Signed) Juan Antonio YAÑEZ-BARNUEVO

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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

Letter dated 12 January 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a message from His Excellency Mr. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia, delivered on 11 January on the occasion of National Children's Day, and to request you to arrange for it to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under the item entitled "Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments".

(Signed) Hamadi KHOUINI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Message delivered on 11 January 1993, National Children's Day, by the President of Tunisia

As we celebrate National Children's Day, it is my pleasure to salute the children of Tunisia, boys and girls, whether here or abroad, and to congratulate them on this holiday which is for them.

We have decided to celebrate National Children's Day on 11 January each year in order to honour our children, who embody our hopes for the future, and to confirm the constant concern for and kindly interest in them which we have shown since the outset of the change with the aim of providing them with the conditions for healthy and harmonious development and a well-rounded education.

The choice of this date, which coincides with the signing of the instruments of ratification of the international Convention on the Rights of the Child, is a fresh indication of our profound belief in the inalienable rights of the child to protection and development and our determination to establish these rights, to protect them and to provide all necessary safeguards for them.

Tunisia, which participated in the United Nations conference on children and was one of the first States to ratify the Conventions on the Rights of the Child, is doing everything in its power to give effect to its principles.

In accordance with the commitments assumed under the Convention, Tunisia has adopted a national plan of action and a series of practical programmes covering the decade 1991-2001. This plan reinforces the radical and comprehensive reforms carried out with respect to children since 7 November 1987, which have entailed, in particular, the establishment of a Ministry for Youth and Children and a High Council on Children and to initiate a wide-ranging reform of education, including the establishment of schools of basic education and provisions governing compulsory schooling. These reforms have made it possible to carry out prenatal and post-natal preventive health programmes and, more generally, to provide effective wide-ranging health care for mothers and children in urban and rural areas alike. In addition, the plan seeks to promote complementarity between women's role within the family and their role in society, in recognition of the fact that the family constitutes both the natural environment for the child's development and the basic unit of society.

Children facing difficult conditions have also benefited from this reform through the establishment of a Superior Council on the Handicapped and a Child Support Fund.

The reforms begun in the new era with the aim of guaranteeing the rights of the child to life, health, food, schooling, education, training and social integration are in complete harmony with the provisions and objectives of the

Convention on the Rights of the Child and the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children. The reforms are also consonant with international efforts aimed at devising strategies for ensuring the balanced development of children and seeing to it that children are accorded the place to which they are entitled.

The growing interest in the world in children confirms that we have been in the forefront of efforts to guarantee the rights of the child, which constitute an essential pillar of human rights.

By guaranteeing the rights of the child to survival, protection and development, we have given human rights, which are respected in Tunisia, another fundamental dimension which cannot but reinforce fundamental freedoms, both individual and collective, which we have begun to codify, promote and enforce.

The survival, protection and development of children are not just national or regional matters. They are of concern to mankind as a whole.

I would therefore appeal to the universal conscience that is embodied in States, organizations, voluntary agencies and individuals to contribute to the search for urgent solutions to the problems, indeed the tragedies, which afflict certain parts of the world and which threaten the existence, health, nutrition and education of children.

Our thoughts go out on this occasion to the "children of the stones", the children of the heroic intifadah in the occupied Arab territories, and to the children of Somalia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

These dramatic situations call for vigorous humanitarian action and a spirit of active and effective solidarity to save the oppressed children and safeguard their right to life and protection.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to and high esteem for the children of Tunisia, who have responded enthusiastically and generously to our appeal for donations to help the children of Somalia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Their spontaneous reaction is yet another reflection of the humanitarian conscience of Tunisians and their constant readiness to help in alleviating the sufferings of the children of those countries.

Protection of the rights of the child and respect for the physical security and moral welfare of the child consists in viewing children and fully fledged human beings and treating them accordingly. In other words, children are to be considered assets of unparalleled worth.

Clearly, the family, schools and associations concerned with the education of children have a crucial role to play in fostering such attitudes and in passing them on to the younger generations, while at the same time

exercising their primary functions for the welfare, education, instruction and guidance of children and for the promotion of cultural and patriotic values among children so that they will become imbued with these values and learn early in life to love their country and remain committed to the lofty ideals of mankind.

Such institutions also have a duty to create a climate that is conducive to and the conditions necessary for the development of the abilities of children, the flowering of their talents and the formation of their personalities in a balanced way and also, above all, for instilling in them the pleasure of study and a thirst for knowledge, for the great challenge for our country's future consists in acquiring skills, mastering knowledge in its many and varied forms and understanding the reality of living beings and the meaning of things. By giving the rising generations a comprehensive training we are preparing Tunisia's future, a future which we all hope will be bright. In so doing, we are helping to build a better world.

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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS: QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

Letter dated 11 January 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires, a.i., of the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a note verbale dated 11 January 1993 addressed to you, which contains an official request of the Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan for emergency assistance from the United Nations for Tajik refugees who have taken refuge in Afghanistan (see annex).

I should be grateful if you have the present letter and the text of the above-mentioned note issued as an official document of the General Assembly under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions: Questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons".

(Signed) Abdul Rahim GHAFOORZAI
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

ANNEX

Note verbale dated 11 January 1993 from the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic State of Afghanistan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, upon instructions from the Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, has the honour to state the following:

Owing to the unfortunate developments in the Republic of Tajikistan in recent weeks, there has been an exodus of almost 90,000 citizens of that Republic who have taken refuge in Afghanistan and are presently living under very difficult circumstances.

As you are fully aware, the Islamic State of Afghanistan, as a country that has experienced 14 years of war, is faced with an extremely difficult financial and economic situation. The country is not even in a position to provide basic services to meet the needs of its own population.

The Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan would hereby like to request the United Nations, as well as specialized agencies within the United Nations system, urgently to provide emergency assistance for the Tajik refugees in the form of basic necessary commodities, that is, foodstuffs, clothes, medicines and shelter.

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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 13 January 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.,
of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a message from the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, H.E. Mr. Dobrica Cosić (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Letter from the President of Yugoslavia addressed to the Secretary-General

In his letter of 26 December 1992, the Yugoslav Army Chief of Staff advised the UNPROFOR Commander of massive violations of the no-fly zone in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina by Croatia and of a number of abuses of Cazin Airport for purposes of delivering weaponry and equipment to the Muslim forces.

However, with reference to your reports to the Security Council of 29 December 1992 and 4 January 1993, I have noted with regret further and increasing abuses of Cazin Airport. Of the 25 unauthorized flights carried out from 23 December 1992 to 3 January 1993 that you reported to the Security Council, 17 flights were to or from Cazin Airport, of which 7 from or to Pleso Airport, 5 from or to Pula Airport, while as to the remaining 5 flights there is no information available related to their take-off and landing points. It was noted on a number of occasions that the aircraft violating the ban had been camouflaged and carried no prescribed markings.

In the light of the importance attached by the United Nations and yourself to the observance of the no-fly zone in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the worrisome implications of its possible abuse to serve as a pretext for the use of force with unforeseeable consequences, I should like to assure you that the competent authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and I personally are devoting our utmost attention to this matter. In this regard, I wish to highlight the following facts:

1. Since the imposition of the no-fly zone and the deployment of United Nations observers at airports in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, not a single Yugoslav Army aircraft has violated the ban. All allegations to that effect have been refuted by documentary evidence. I wish to reassure you that we shall continue to observe the ban strictly and seek to clarify all possible cases under suspicion by working closely with the competent United Nations authorities.

2. In our communications with General Nambiar as well as in the present letter to you we have referred solely to the facts contained in your reports to the Security Council as established by the United Nations observers on the ground. We intend to follow the same practice in the future as well. We have no intention of making any false accusations nor of giving this problem dimensions it does not have. Truth is our sole concern.

3. At the same time, the Croatian side has been violating the no-fly zone unhindered as if aiming to trigger the use of force against the Serb people.

4. The Muslim side, consistent with its overall position held ever since the outbreak of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina - which it is the most responsible for - has made, through its representative to the United Nations,

false accusations against the Republic of Srpska and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia regarding the alleged violations of the no-fly zone. The Permanent Muslim Representative to the United Nations set out in his letter of 29 December 1992, among other untruths, that the Serb and Montenegrin forces had carried out 24 military flights from 23 to 27 December in the area of Srebřenica alone although the competent United Nations authorities had not traced a single flight in that area.

You share my view, I trust, that at this crucial juncture it is most important to do our utmost to familiarize the United Nations Security Council, the international public and all the concerned international leaders with the actual scope of the problem on our hands and the share of responsibility borne by each of the parties involved, and that it is essential in view of the above to preclude misinformation and unsubstantiated allegations. Could you therefore kindly pass the present letter on to the United Nations Security Council as an official document.

Dobrica COSIĆ
President

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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 18 January 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the letter from His Excellency Mr. Dobrica Cosić, President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to you (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the text of the present letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador,
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Letter dated 17 January 1993 from the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the Secretary-General

At a time when progress was made at the Geneva Conference and when significant peacemaking decisions that would contribute to the termination of the tragedy in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina are pending, it is with extreme concern that I wish to inform you of the aggression of Moslem forces yesterday, on 16 January, against the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

As part of a general offensive in the area of the Serbian municipality of Bratunac, in the early morning hours of 16 January, Moslem forces surrounded a number of Serbian villages and massacred the civilian population and then opened artillery fire on the dam of the "Perućac" Hydro-power Station on the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, intending to cause an ecological catastrophe. Owing to the gravity of the situation, members of the Army of Yugoslavia, who are defending the dam, fired a few warning shots. However, the Moslem forces did not cease firing at the dam of the Power Station, but also opened strong concentric fire on the crew of the Army of Yugoslavia at the "Perućac" watchtower and thereafter on the town of Bajina Bašta, which is on the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Besides direct aggression on facilities and troops on the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Moslem army opened strong fire on the access routes to the bridge near the village of Skelani and the bridge itself, over which the civilian population was fleeing and over which the wounded and killed were being evacuated. The Moslem infantry penetrated to the bridge itself and threatened to prevent the evacuation and massacre the refugees, the wounded and the killed, and several members of the Moslem army crossed over to the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Under such circumstances, the units of the Army of Yugoslavia took the necessary countermeasures. Further action of the Moslem army was prevented by artillery fire, as well as the continuation of the massacre of the civilian population and the wounded in the region of the bridge near the village of Skelani. This enabled the evacuation of the refugees, and of 150 wounded and 46 people killed to the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. However, this tragic result is not final, since battles in the region of Bratunac and Skelani are still going on and Moslem forces again this morning, on 17 January, opened fire on the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which means that they are not desisting from their aggressive intentions and the ethnic cleansing of the Serbian population on the left bank of the Brina river.

Mr. Secretary-General, I have described these events to enable you to get a true picture of the extent of the crimes committed against the civilian population and of the degree of the aggression against the territory of the

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Such a situation calls for the taking of adequate measures in order to prevent the further escalation of the conflict, aimed at forcibly drawing Yugoslavia into the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and provoking an international armed intervention. On this occasion also, I am faced with the tragic fact that there are many in the world who do not care about the truth on the civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. How else can one interpret the fact that many TV stations refused the offer made by TV Serbia to broadcast, within programme exchanges, the authentic pictures of the consequences of the operations of the Moslem army and thus objectively inform the public of their countries. Need I emphasize that the majority of these countries are directly involved in the resolving of the crisis in the former Yugoslavia, where the Serbian people are first satanized, then placed in a ghetto of sorts, then given ultimatums and put on trial in advance.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has on numerous occasions drawn attention to the Moslem war objectives and their unscrupulous political methods. Regrettably, international political forums have not taken our warnings into consideration so far. On the contrary, the biased and one-sided behaviour of certain international factors encouraged and continues to encourage the Moslem side to aggressive and provocative conduct in the Bosnian-Herzegovinian civil and religious conflict. The constant application of double standards in relation to the crisis in the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, especially the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina, has resulted even in the disregard of the presence of regular troops of the Army of the Republic of Croatia on the territory of the former Bosnia and Herzegovina and of the combat flights of its Air Force. Such behaviour directly prevents the reaching of a peaceful solution for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Simultaneously, the Serbian people as a whole are systematically demonized in the media of certain countries and in the statements of their most responsible officials, this practically amounting to racism and overt warmongering.

I wish to emphasize that, in spite of the constant efforts to jeopardize the peace process, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia not only will not give up, but will intensify its efforts for putting an end to the suffering of the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina and arriving at a just political solution and ensuring lasting peace.

I am convinced that we will continue enjoying your support and assistance in the struggle for peace and the truth, and that you will bring your influence and authority to bear in order to remove the danger threatening to interrupt the initiated peace process and invalidate the efforts and results accomplished so far.

I should kindly like to ask you to transmit this letter to the United Nations Security Council as an official document.

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Forty-eighth session
CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL
(BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 15 January 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a communiqué from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kanika PHOMMACHANH
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Communiqué from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

(Vientiane, 13 January 1993)

On 13 January 1993, in Paris, France, the United Nations, in cooperation with the French Government, is organizing a signing ceremony for the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic welcomes this major event.

As a full Member of the United Nations, the Lao People's Democratic Republic believes that disarmament in general and the reduction of weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons, in particular, are extremely important questions and constitute a prerequisite for the promotion of security, peace and mutual trust in international relations. The signing ceremony for the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction marks an important historic milestone in the international community's efforts towards the gradual elimination of chemical weapons throughout the world.

In that spirit, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic takes this opportunity to reaffirm solemnly that, in the past as in the present, it has never had chemical weapons in its possession and has never used them. It declares that it will never use such weapons of destruction.

The Lao Government regrets that, for procedural reasons, it is unable at this time to participate in the signing ceremony and sign the Convention. That being the case, the Lao Government will take steps to expedite the procedure so as to be able to sign the Convention in the near future.

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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 22 January 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the letter from the Secretary of the Presidency of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia, Dr. Rade Dubajic, addressed to His Excellency Egon Alfred Klepsch, President of the European Parliament.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Human rights questions: Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Letter dated 18 January 1993 from the Secretary of the Presidency of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia addressed to the President of the European Parliament

The Red Cross of Yugoslavia has learned of the European Parliament resolution on the Condemnation of Mass Rape of Muslim Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina, adopted on 16 December 1993.

The Red Cross of Yugoslavia, as part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, committed to the principles of international humanitarian law and guided by the fundamental tenets of the Movement, from the very outbreak of the armed conflict in the territory of the former Yugoslavia has been undertaking numerous actions to extend aid to all the victims of the war and following at the same time the implementation of that law. Like you, the Red Cross of Yugoslavia is appalled at the large-scale and grave crimes committed so far in this armed conflict, among which is the crime of rape of minor girls, girls and women. That crime is a violation of the basic principles of international humanitarian law on respect for the human person, of the honour, family rights, the physical integrity of victims of war, of the principle of humane treatment of victims, and of the requirement for women to be especially protected against any assault on their honour, in particular rape, forced prostitution and any form of assault on their chastity (see in particular Article 27 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and Articles 75 and 76 of Additional Protocol I and Article 4 of Additional Protocol II thereto). Under their agreement of 22 May 1992, all the parties in the conflict undertook to respect those provisions of international humanitarian law and hence bear appropriate responsibility. At the same time, these crimes constitute a violation of basic human rights generally accepted today in the world.

The Red Cross of Yugoslavia cannot remain indifferent to these and all other crimes being committed in this armed conflict. Within the Movement to which the Red Cross of Yugoslavia belongs, the International Committee of the Red Cross has been investing steady efforts to ensure respect for international humanitarian law, including the condemnation of war crimes, which should be suppressed, all the perpetrators punished, and the further commission of such crimes prevented.

The Red Cross of Yugoslavia is therefore in full agreement with you and with all others who are appalled at these war crimes, including the crime of rape of minor girls, girls and women.

There is a steady influx of large numbers of refugees into our country from the war-torn areas and there are now over 600,000 of them of various nationalities, in particular of Muslims - around 15 per cent. Among them is a large number of women, which the Red Cross of Yugoslavia helps, in keeping with its duties. A large number of women who have fled to the Federal

Republic of Yugoslavia tell their stories, testify to the ordeals and rape to which they were subjected at the hands of the Muslim and Croatian authorities and forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in prisons, camps, hotels, schools, restaurants, flats turned into private prisons, sports centres and other scenes of crime. From their testimonies we learned that many women did not survive mass rape and torture. Those who did survive turned to the Red Cross and medical establishments for help. Most of these women are Serb by nationality, but the Red Cross of Yugoslavia makes no distinction whatsoever between them, and extends assistance to all the victims.

Numerous cases of women who were raped in Bosnia and Herzegovina, who survived and fled to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, were reported on in our mass media so that anyone interested could have learned about them, including representatives of foreign States, international organizations and foreign correspondents in our country. The public was also informed of the open letter of Madam Biljana Plavšić, member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who, as early as 9 September 1992, addressed a letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Steering Committee of the Conference on Yugoslavia and the International Committee of the Red Cross, in which, inter alia, she speaks of the large-scale rape of Serb girls and women in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This letter signalized the existence of the crime of rape on a mass scale. The letter, regrettably, met with no response, no condemnation of the crime and no action was taken so as to establish the facts or put an end to that crime. All these data were available to the European Parliament as well. From the testimonies of the women victims of this crime who survived, the Red Cross of Yugoslavia was able to learn of many such cases and of the places where these crimes were committed: Sarajevo, Hadžići, Tuzla, Bugojno, Bihać, Konjic and many other places in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Red Cross of Yugoslavia does not maintain special records on raped women who have escaped to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, but takes care of all the victims of the war who are in need, irrespective of their religious, national or any other affiliation or their sex, provides accommodation for them, supplies their food and medicaments, provides social work and welfare and tracing services for them. More specific data on women victims of rape who have fled can be obtained from numerous medical institutions in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which many of these women contacted. These data testify to the massive scale of this crime, and the severe physical and psychic traumas of the victims.

While joining in your condemnation of rape and forced prostitution of women in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we are surprised at the introduction of the principle of discrimination of the victims of this crime, the ignoring of the existence of victims of this crime among Serb women. That principle is contrary to the commitments of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia, the principles of humaneness, impartiality and non-discrimination, as well as the principle of non-discrimination of the victims of war, which is unequivocally spelled out in international humanitarian law and universally accepted. All victims of war are entitled to equal protection. No nationality or religious group

should be treated as an inferior race and members of that group deprived of the right to protection and assistance as victims of war. All war crimes, irrespective of who the perpetrators and the victims are, should be punished in keeping with the law in force. The political criteria of nationality and religion should not be allowed to influence humanitarian action for protecting and assisting victims of war, or the condemnation of war crimes, because international humanitarian law has been universally adopted so as to protect all human beings from violence, crime and inhumane treatment. The Red Cross of Yugoslavia is of the opinion that all national Red Cross organizations should bring influence to bear on their respective Governments so that the principles of international humanitarian law are equally respected and that no discrimination is made among victims of war.

The primary task of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia is to extend assistance and protection to all victims of war who appeal to it. In this case it is ready to continue to extend assistance both to women victims of rape, as well as to children born as the fruit of that crime. The Red Cross of Yugoslavia does not engage in pronouncing public condemnation and trials for war crimes, which is within the competence of other bodies and organizations, but joins in the general condemnation of those crimes pronounced by others when the principles are violated of international humanitarian law, which has been developed at the initiative of the Red Cross. The Red Cross of Yugoslavia is, however, ready to make the data it has obtained through contact with victims of war available to bodies in charge of collecting data and punishing war crimes and to bodies seeking to establish the facts and the full truth to the extent possible, in keeping with the personal rights of victims of war.

We would appreciate it if you would acquaint the sponsors of the resolution with our letter.

(Signed) Dr. Rade DUBAJIĆ
Secretary of the Presidency
of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia

(Signed) Dr. Radovan MIJANOVIĆ
President of the Red Cross
of Montenegro

(Signed) Dr. Slobodanka GRUDEN
President of the Red Cross
of Serbia

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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
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OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 26 January 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the letter of His Excellency, Mr. Dobrica Cosić, President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in the wake of the latest offensive by the Republic of Croatia against the Republic of Serbian Krajina (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Letter dated 26 January 1993 from the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the Secretary-General

With regret and extreme concern I have to inform you that Croatia is ignoring all the measures taken so far by the United Nations, including the latest Security Council resolution, as well as by other international factors, and that it is intensifying its aggression against the Serbian people in the areas under the protection of the United Nations.

It is with cynicism, typical of aggressors, that the Croatian leadership is deceiving the world public about the limited targets of its armed operation in the Maslenički Bridge and Zemunik Airport regions, pursuing at the same time the war and extending the front. Today as well, on the fourth day of aggression, the Croatian army is pursuing its attacks with unabated force along the entire line of its offensive. Artillery units are destroying Serbian villages along the entire front line, exposing the Serbian people to persecution or annihilation and destroying the seventeenth century orthodox church in the village of Islam Grčki. The civilian population, mainly women, children and the elderly, are leaving their homes and fleeing in vast columns from the daggers and the fires of the Croatian army. Along the entire front line the Croats are bringing in reinforcements and concentrating fresh military forces and equipment. At this point, the aggressor has focused its main forces on the towns of Obrovac and Benkovac with a view to occupying and cutting them off so as to pursue the fighting towards Knin.

In order to achieve their objectives in the attacks against the towns of Obrovac and Benkovac, at certain points the Croatian commanders have concentrated large units and military might, which has as its consequence tremendously fierce fighting and extremely large numbers of victims.

The aggressor is not even sparing the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) units and is inflicting losses upon them as well, as a result of which the French battalion was forced to withdraw from the positions held so far.

It is high time for the world organization to take resolute measures in order to stop further aggression and persecution of the Serbian people, to force the aggressor to withdraw and punish him for the crimes committed. By doing so, the United Nations would, at the same time, be protecting its peace-keeping forces from new losses and enable them to perform their task.

Should there be no such action, an escalation of the war to extermination would be forthcoming inflicting a hard blow to the reputation and the authority of the United Nations.